



File Code: 2900

Date: March 5, 2012

George MacDougall
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

Dear Mr. MacDougall,

The Watershed Research and Training Center is proposing a project called "Stop the Spread of Noxious Weeds in the South Fork Trinity River Basin." This project will target areas where OHV use is aiding the spread of invasive plants in the Hyampom Valley. They will use their Youth Restoration Crew and also work with local volunteers in the Hyampom Valley to combat the spread of spotted knapweed (*Centuarea stoebe ssp. micranthos*) and scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). The project will be implemented through manual pulling followed by seeding with site-appropriate native grass and forb species, in consultation with our District botanist.

The US Forest Service is committed to weed control and management in the South Fork Trinity River. We have contributed a substantial amount of effort to the removal of invasive weeds over the last decade in this basin and have achieved success in a number of areas with the methods mentioned above. However, our botanists have found a new population of these invasive weeds in the Hyampom Valley that occur on both National Forest System lands and on Trinity County lands, making collaborative efforts crucial for success.

Both of the species targeted for management in this project are priorities for treatment, however, the proposed project area is very remote making management and enforcement a challenge. Engaging the residents of Hyampom Valley as volunteers and employing local youths in conservation work will help to educate and empower them to participate in critical weed control efforts while also increasing the effectiveness of the project.

We welcome the support of the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation program in restoring this area. The Watershed Center's proposed project will eradicate existing populations and the subsequent planting of native seed will contribute to the restoration of US Forest Service land in the area. Please support this project.

Sincerely,

J. SHARON HEYWOOD
Forest Supervisor

